

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) A medical implant, comprising:
a body including a conical portion having a length, the body adapted for implantation into a person's body; and
a plurality of threads formed around an exterior surface of the conical portion of the body and extending along at least a portion of the length of the conical portion, the plurality of threads adapted to help secure the implant in place within the person's body, each of the plurality of threads including a crest having a substantially flat surface;
wherein the conical portion of the body has a degree of taper; and
wherein the plurality of crests define a cone having the same degree of taper as the conical portion of the body.
2. (Original) The medical implant of Claim 1, wherein:
the medical implant is a subtalar implant adapted for implantation into the person's body and sized to fit within a sinus tarsi of a subtalar joint in the person's body for at least partially preventing displacement of the talus associated with the subtalar joint; and
the plurality of threads are adapted to help secure the implant within the sinus tarsi.
3. (Original) The medical implant of Claim 2, wherein the conical portion of the body has a taper of approximately 18 degrees.
4. (Original) The medical implant of Claim 2, wherein the conical portion of the body has a taper measuring between 10 degrees and 30 degrees.

5. (Original) The medical implant of Claim 4, further comprising an engagement formed in a trailing end of the body and adapted to receive a tool for rotating the implant about a longitudinal axis of the implant for implantation of the implant into the sinus tarsi.

6. (Currently Amended) The medical implant of Claim 5, wherein each ~~[[of one or more of the plurality of threads]]~~ thread comprises a thread height and each ~~[[a]]~~ crest comprises ~~[[having]]~~ a crest width, wherein the ratio of the crest width to the thread height is at least 0.3.

7. (Currently Amended) The medical implant of Claim 5, wherein each ~~[[of one or more of the plurality of threads comprises a]]~~ crest comprises ~~[[having]]~~ a crest width, the plurality of threads comprises a pitch, and ~~[[wherein]]~~ the ratio of the crest width to the pitch of the one or more threads is at least 0.15.

8. (Currently Amended) The medical implant of Claim 5, further comprising a thread root between each adjacent pair of the plurality of threads, each ~~[[the]]~~ thread root having a width between 0.020 and 0.040 inches.

9. (Currently Amended) The medical implant of Claim 5, wherein the body further comprises an additional conical portion including a plurality of threads, and a cylindrical portion separating the conical portion from the additional conical portion.

10. (Original) The medical implant of Claim 9, wherein:
the conical portion of the body includes a first end and a second end opposite the first end; and
the body further comprises a slot extending from the first end of the conical portion at least substantially to the second end of the conical portion.

11. (Original) The medical implant of Claim 10, wherein:
the additional conical portion of the body includes a first end and a second end opposite the first end; and
the body further comprises an additional slot extending from the first end of the additional conical portion at least substantially to the second end of the additional conical portion.

12. (Currently Amended) The medical implant of Claim 5, wherein:
each of one or more threads has a thread angle of approximately 60 degrees and comprises a thread height and **[[a crest having]]** a crest width, wherein the ratio of the crest width to the thread height is at least 0.3; and
the implant further comprises a thread root between each adjacent pair of threads, **each ~~[[the]]~~** thread root having a root width between 0.020 and 0.040 inches.

13. (Original) The medical implant of Claim 12, wherein:
the conical portion of the body has a taper of approximately 18 degrees;
the thread height of each of the one or more threads is approximately 0.032 inches;
the root width between each adjacent pair of threads is approximately 0.030 inches;
and
the pitch of the one or more threads is approximately 0.090 inches.

14. (Original) The medical implant of Claim 12, wherein:
the conical portion of the body has a taper of 18 degrees;
the thread height of each of the one or more threads is 0.032 inches;
the root width between each adjacent pair of threads is 0.030 inches; and
the pitch of the one or more threads is 0.090 inches.

15. (Original) The medical implant of Claim 12, wherein:
the conical portion of the body has a taper of approximately 18 degrees;
the thread height of each of the one or more threads is approximately 0.041 inches;
the root width between each adjacent pair of threads is approximately 0.030 inches;
and
the pitch of the one or more threads is approximately 0.100 inches.

16. (Original) The medical implant of Claim 12, wherein:
the conical portion of the body has a taper of 18 degrees;
the thread height of each of the one or more threads is 0.041 inches;
the root width between each adjacent pair of threads is 0.030 inches; and
the pitch of the one or more threads is 0.100 inches.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a medical implant, comprising:
providing a body including a conical portion **having a length**, the body adapted for
implantation into a person's body; and

forming a plurality of threads around an exterior surface of the conical portion of the
body and **extending along at least a portion of the length of the conical portion, the
plurality of threads** adapted to help secure the implant in place within the person's body,
each of the plurality of threads including a crest having a substantially flat surface,
wherein the conical portion has a degree of taper, and wherein the plurality of crests
define a cone having the same degree of taper as the conical portion of the body.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein:
the medical implant is a subtalar implant adapted for implantation into the person's
body and sized to fit within a sinus tarsi of a subtalar joint in the person's body for at least
partially preventing displacement of the talus associated with the subtalar joint; and
the plurality of threads are adapted to help secure the implant within the sinus tarsi.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the conical portion of the body has a taper of approximately 18 degrees.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the conical portion of the body has a taper measuring between 10 degrees and 30 degrees.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, further comprising forming an engagement in a trailing end of the body, the engagement being adapted to receive a tool for rotating the implant about a longitudinal axis of the implant for implantation of the implant into the sinus tarsi.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein forming the plurality of threads comprises forming one or more threads each comprising a thread height and **[[a crest having]]** a crest width, wherein the ratio of the crest width to the thread height is at least 0.3.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein forming the plurality of threads comprises forming one or more threads, each comprising **[[a crest having]]** a crest width, **the one or more threads comprise a pitch, and** **[[wherein]]** the ratio of the crest width to the pitch of the one or more threads is at least 0.15.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21, further comprising forming an additional conical portion **including a plurality of threads,** and a cylindrical portion separating the conical portion from the additional conical portion.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24, further comprising forming a slot extending from a first end of the conical portion at least substantially to a second end of the conical portion opposite the first end.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 25, further comprising forming an additional slot extending from a first end of the additional conical portion at least substantially to a second end of the additional conical portion opposite the first end of the additional conical portion.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21, wherein:
forming the plurality of threads comprises forming one or more threads each having a thread angle of approximately 60 degrees and comprising a thread height and **[[a crest having]]** a crest width, wherein the ratio of the crest width to the thread height is at least 0.3;
and

the implant further comprises a thread root between each adjacent pair of threads, **each ~~[[the]]~~** thread root having a root width between 0.020 and 0.040 inches.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein:
the conical portion of the body has a taper of approximately 18 degrees;
the thread height of each of the one or more threads is approximately 0.032 inches;
the root width between each adjacent pair of threads is approximately 0.030 inches;
and
the pitch of the one or more threads is approximately 0.090 inches.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein:
the conical portion of the body has a taper of 18 degrees;
the thread height of each of the one or more threads is 0.032 inches;
the root width between each adjacent pair of threads is 0.030 inches; and
the pitch of the one or more threads is 0.090 inches.

30. **(Currently Amended)** The method **[[medical implant]]** of Claim 27, wherein:

the conical portion of the body has a taper of approximately 18 degrees;

the thread height of each of the one or more threads is approximately 0.041 inches;

the root width between each adjacent pair of threads is approximately 0.030 inches;

and

the pitch of the one or more threads is approximately 0.100 inches.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The method **[[medical implant]]** of Claim 27, wherein:

the conical portion of the body has a taper of 18 degrees;

the thread height of each of the one or more threads is 0.041 inches;

the root width between each adjacent pair of threads is 0.030 inches; and

the pitch of the one or more threads is 0.100 inches.

32. **(New)** The medical implant of Claim 6, wherein the thread height of each thread is the same.

33. **(New)** The method of Claim 21, wherein forming the plurality of threads comprises forming a plurality of threads having the same thread height.

34. **(New)** A medical implant, comprising:

a body including a first threaded portion, a second threaded portion, and an unthreaded portion between the first and second threaded portions, the body adapted for implantation into a person; and

a first slot formed in the first threaded portion, the first slot extending from a first end of the body toward a second end of the body opposite the first end; and

a second slot formed in the second threaded portion, the second slot extending from the second end of the body toward the first end of the body, the second slot being distinct from the first slot.

35. (New) The medical implant of Claim 33, wherein both the first and second threaded portions are tapered in a direction from the first end of the body to the second end of the body.